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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 072982/0191

In re patent application of

Kaoru UCHIDA

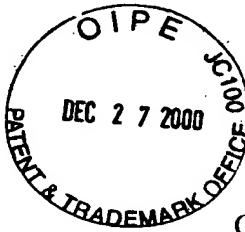
Serial No. 09/396,423

Filed: September 15, 1999

Group Art Unit: 2721

Examiner: Unassigned

For: INFORMATION PROCESSING DEVICE AND INFORMATION PROCESSING
METHOD USING FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION



**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and 37 C.F.R. §1.97**

RECEIVED

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

DEC 29 2000

Sir:

Technology Center 2600

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is believed to be filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits (first scenario). If this is not the case, such as in a second scenario in which a first Office Action on the merits or a notice of allowance has been mailed before the filing of the instant Information Disclosure Statement, a certification or fee is required. In that case, the PTO is authorized to obtain the requisite fee from Foley & Lardner Deposit Account #19-0741.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned hereby certifies in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Statement.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Documents A1 and A2 were listed in a Japanese Office Action mailed November 7, 2000, with respect to a counterpart Japanese patent application.

Document A1 relates to a system that compares the inputs of ID information and a password with the contents of an ID table registered on a server, in order to secure the continuity of business processing for all users at end points of work stations, user by user. The Japanese Office Action asserts that this document discloses that a user is identified through the input of an ID and a password.

Document A2 relates to a personal computer with a fingerprint sensor, which compares a fingerprint obtained by the sensor with a reference fingerprint stored in a memory, and which grants approval if they coincide. The Japanese Office Action asserts that this document discloses the identification of a user by means of fingerprint input.

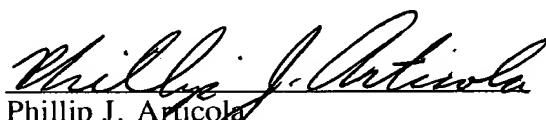
Applicant's statements regarding the Japanese Office Action are based on a partial translation that Applicant's representative obtained. These statements should in no way be considered as an agreement by Applicant with, or an admission of, what is asserted in the Japanese Office Action.

Applicant respectfully requests that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and formally be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,

December 27, 2000

Date


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